a U.S. company named 'Gold Medal Hosiery', based in New York, distributed socks bearing the Hindu symbol "OM". The socks also had "Made in South Korea" inscribed on them.

(c) and (d) India Cause, an organisation representing members of the Indian community in the United States of America, promptly took up the matter with M/s. Gold Medal Hosiery. The Chief Executive Officer of the company issued an apology expressing regret at the use of the "OM" symbol. He stressed that his company respected values and traditions of all religions and would never knowingly be disrespectful towards anyone's beliefs. He promised that the company would not repeat the use of the "OM" symbol in any of its products.

Facilities for construction workers

2019. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no proper facilities for the construction workers employed by contractors and even Government agencies like DDA, are provided at the sites in Delhi and other metropolitan cities, as a result of which the areas around the construction sites are used for unhygienic and demeaning purposes by the workers and their families; and

(b) if so, the number of contractors and Government officials apprehended for violating relevant orders during the last three years in Delhi and other metropolitan cities, city-wise and the action taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Implementation of the provisions relating to facilities like drinking water, washing facilities, latrines, urinals, rest rooms etc. as laid down under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 is ensured through inspections by the Implementing Authorities of both the Central and State Governments. By and large the major contractors/ employers are providing these facilities wherever there is sufficient open space. Sometimes they express their inability to provide these facilities due to lack of space at the construction sites.

(b) Number of prosecutions launched by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery against the contractors including Government agencies for violation of relevant provisions of the above Acts in four metropolitan cities *viz.*, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai during the last three years, is given in enclosed statement (*See* below). Date regarding violations of the above Acts in the establishments falling under State Sphere is not maintained.

Statement

Number of prosecutions launched against the employers/contractors by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery in four Metropolitan cities during the last three years is given below

Metropolitan Cities	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Delhi	65	173	280
Chennai	39	60	47
Kolkata	70	162	34
Mumbai	149	294	444

Exploitation of job seekers by private placement agencies

2020. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a working group on National Employment Services has highlighted serious complaints of exploitation of job seekers by the private placement agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the activities of unscrupulous placement agencies; and

(c) the details of plans drawn up, if any, to regulate the functioning of these agencies mushrooming across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.